

CLAIMS

1. A method for processing a request at a first server to form a modified
5 request that is directed to a second server, the first and second servers being
coupled to a network, said method comprising the acts of:

identifying an initial hostname portion of the request, the hostname
portion initially resolves to a network address associated with the first server;

10 determining a replacement hostname portion for the request, the
replacement hostname portion resolves to a network address associated with
the second server; and

forming the modified request by modifying the request based on the
replacement hostname portion.

15 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

forwarding the modified request to the second server through use of
the replacement hostname portion.

20 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said forming operates to
replace the initial hostname portion of the request with the replacement
hostname portion.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is initiated by a
requestor, and

25 wherein said method further comprises the acts of:

determining server-supplied user, session or state information
associated with both the requestor and the second server, and

forwarding the modified request together with the server-supplied user, session or state information to the second server.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the server-supplied user, session or state information comprises a cookie stored on or associated with the first server that was previously provided by the second server.

6. A method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the hostname includes at least a domain and a subdomain,
10 and

wherein said determining of the replacement hostname portion comprises removing the domain from the hostname, thereby retaining the subdomain as the replacement hostname portion.

15 7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the request is initiated by a requestor, and

wherein said method further comprises the acts of:
determining server-supplied user, session or state information associated with both the requestor and the second server, and
20 forwarding the modified request together with the server-supplied user, session or state information to the second server through use of the replacement hostname portion.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the server-supplied user, session or state information comprises a "cookie" stored on or associated with the first server that was previously provided by the second server.

9. A method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the request further includes at least a port number, and
wherein said determining of the replacement hostname portion
comprises obtaining the replacement hostname from storage associated with
5 the first server based on at least the port number.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the initial request indicates a
secure connection from the first server to the second server is required.

10 11. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the initial hostname is a
predetermined hostname.

12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the port number uniquely
identifies the replacement hostname of the second server.

15 13. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the request is initiated by a
requestor, and
wherein said method further comprises the acts of:

20 determining server-supplied user, session or state information
associated with both the requestor and the second server, and
forwarding the modified request together with the server-
supplied user, session or state information to the second server through use
of the replacement hostname portion.

25 14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the server-supplied user,
session or state information comprises a cookie stored on or associated with
the first server that was previously provided by the second server.

15. A method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the request further includes at least a port number, and
wherein said determining comprises obtaining the replacement
hostname from storage associated with the first server based on at least the
5 port number and the initial hostname.

16. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is initiated by a
requestor,

10 wherein the request further includes at least a port number and a
requestor or session identifier, and
wherein said determining comprises obtaining the replacement
hostname from storage associated with the first server based on at least the
port number, the initial hostname, and the requestor or session identifier.

15 17. A method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the request further includes a host variable that identifies the
hostname of the second server, and
wherein said determining of the replacement hostname portion
determines the replacement hostname portion based on the host variable
20 provided with the request.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the host variable is provided
as a suffix to the request.

25 19. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the request is initiated by a
requestor, and

wherein said method further comprises the acts of:

determining server-supplied user, session or state information associated with both the requestor and the second server, and

forwarding the modified request together with the server-supplied user, session or state information to the second server through use
5 of the replacement hostname portion.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the server-supplied user, session or state information comprises a cookie stored on or associated with the first server that was previously provided by the second server.

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21. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

22. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is initiated by a
15 requestor, and

wherein said method further comprises:

forwarding the modified request to the second server through use of the replacement hostname portion;

subsequently receiving a response from the second server;

20 determining whether the response includes server-supplied user, session or state information associated with the second server; and

saving the server-supplied user, session or state information associated with the second server at the first server such that it is associated with the requestor.

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23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein said method further comprises:

removing the server-supplied user, session or state information provided with the response from the response.

24. A method for modifying a markup language document to facilitate
5 access to other resources residing on remote servers through an intermediate server, said method comprising:

receiving, at the intermediate server, the markup language document, the markup language document including at least one link to another resource; and

10 modifying the at least one link of the markup language document to link to the intermediary server.

25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the markup language document is being requested by a client,

15 wherein said modifying is performed at the intermediary server, and wherein said method further comprises:

delivering the markup language document to the client after said modifying.

20 26. A computer readable medium including at least computer program code for modifying a browser viewable document to facilitate access to other resources residing on remote servers through an intermediate server, said computer readable medium comprising:

25 computer program code configured to receive the browser viewable document, the browser viewable document including at least one link to another resource; and

computer program code configured to modify the at least one link of the browser viewable document to link to the intermediary server.

27. A method for modifying Universal Resource Locators (URLs) in a browser viewable document, said method comprising:

identifying a URL in the browser viewable document;
5 determining whether the URL includes an initial hostname; and
modifying the initial hostname of the URL to a predetermined hostname with the initial hostname being a subdomain to the predetermined hostname.

10 28. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

determining whether the URL has a port number specified;
removing the port number as originally specified from the URL; and
modifying the URL to include the port number as a port variable when
15 said determining determines that the URL has the port number specified.

29. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said method further comprises:

determining whether the URL has a port number specified;
20 removing the port number as originally specified from the URL; and
appending the port number to the URL when said determining determines that the URL has the port number specified.

30. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the browser viewable
25 document is a markup language document.

31. A method for modifying Universal Resource Locators (URLs) in a browser viewable document, said method comprising:

identifying a URL in the browser viewable document;
determining whether the URL includes an initial hostname; and
5 replacing the initial hostname of the URL with a predetermined hostname when said determining determines that the URL includes the initial hostname.

32. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein said method further

10 comprises:

adding a hostname identifier to the URL as a port number for the predetermined hostname, wherein the hostname identifier is provided in the URL as a port number and serves to facilitate identification of the initial hostname of the URL when said determining determines that the URL 15 includes the initial hostname.

33. A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the port number is unique for different initial hostnames.

20 34. A method as recited in claim 31, wherein said method further comprises:

appending the initial hostname to the URL when said determining determines that the URL includes the initial hostname.

25 35. A method as recited in claim 34, wherein said appending operates to append an initial hostname suffix to the URL.

36. A method as recited in claim 34, wherein said method further comprises:

determining whether the URL has a port number specified;

removing the port number as originally specified from the URL; and

5 appending the port number to the URL when said determining determines that the URL has the port number specified.

37. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein the browser viewable document is a markup language document.

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38. A method for modifying target Universal Resource Locators (URLs) in a browser viewable document being identified by a source URL, said method comprising:

identifying a target URL in the browser viewable document;

15 first determining whether the target URL includes an initial hostname;

second determining whether the source URL has an appended hostname or port information associated therewith; and

20 appending the hostname or port information associated with the source URL to the target URL when both said first determining determines that the target URL does not include the initial hostname and said second determining determines that the source URL has appended hostname or port information associated therewith.

39. A method for modifying Universal Resource Locators (URLs) in a browser viewable document, said method comprising:

identifying a URL in the browser viewable document;

first determining whether the URL includes an initial hostname;

second determining whether the URL is associated with a secure request;

modifying the initial hostname of the URL in a first manner when said first determining determines that the URL includes the initial hostname and
5 said second determining determines that the URL is not associated with a secure request; and

modifying the initial hostname of the URL in a second manner when said first determining determines that the URL includes the initial hostname and said second determining determines that the URL is associated with a
10 secure request, the second manner being different from the first manner.

40. A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the predetermined hostname pertains to an intermediary server.

15 41. A method as recited in claim 39, wherein said modifying the initial hostname of the URL in the first manner operates to modify the initial hostname of the URL to a predetermined hostname with the initial hostname being a subdomain to the predetermined hostname.

20 42. A method as recited in claim 41, wherein said modifying the initial hostname of the URL in the second manner operates to (i) replace the initial hostname of the URL with a predetermined hostname, (ii) add a hostname identifier to the URL.

25 43. A method as recited in claim 42, wherein the hostname identifier is added to the URL as a port number for the predetermined hostname.

44. A method as recited in claim 41, wherein said modifying the initial hostname of the URL in the second manner operates to (i) replace the initial

hostname of the URL with a predetermined hostname, (ii) append the initial hostname to the URL.

45. A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the initial hostname is
5 appended to the URL as a suffix.

46. A method for modifying a markup language document to facilitate access to other markup language documents through an intermediary server, said method comprising the acts of:

10 receiving, at the intermediary server, a first markup language document from a remote server;

locating hostnames within certain predetermined tags of the first markup language document; and

15 modifying the located hostnames within the first markup language document in accordance with a hostname associated with the intermediary server.